

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00634 070131Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SP-02 IO-13 FDRE-00
/093 W

-----089935 071402Z /72

R 060945Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9326
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 9131

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0634

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, LA, WFP
SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE II AID TO LAOS

REF: ROME 10269 (NOT SENT BANGKOK)

SUMMARY: WE APPRECIATE WFP/ROME'S SUGGESTION FOR THE IMMEDIATE USE OF OUR FOOD AID TO LAOS, BUT THE PROPOSED PROJECTS DO NOT FIT OUR MID-AUGUST TIMING OR OUR DESIRED LOCATION NEAR VIENTIANE. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE ALREADY SLATED TO RECEIVE OTHER DONORS' COMMODITIES. WE THINK THAT THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING SOME OF OUR FOOD TO THE SITE OF A FUTURE VIENTIANE PLAIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND TO THE GENERAL POPULATION THROUGH THE LAO STATE STORE SYSTEM.

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WFP/ROME BE TOLD THAT THEIR PROPOSED PROJECTS ARE ALREADY "FUNDED" AND DO NOT FIT OUR TIMING AND THAT WE BE TOLD IF THE STATE STORE CHANNEL PRESENTS ANY PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE ARE PLEASE TO NOTE THAT WFP/ROME APPEARS TO BE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00634 070131Z

MAKING CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR THE DRAWDOWN OF OUR 10,000 TON PL 480 TITLE II CONTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS TO LAOS. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FOUR PROJECTS PROPOSED BY WFP/ROME (REFTEL) AS RECIPIENTS OF OUR FOOD HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESIGNATED AS RECIPIENTS OF OTHER WFP COMMODITIES WHICH ARE ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE. SINCE OUR FOOD IS NOT DUE TO ARRIVE UNTIL MID-AUGUST, SARMARKING

IT FOR THESE PROJECTS WOULD MEAN THAT AN IMMEDIATE NEED WOULD NOT BE MET AND THAT THE COMMODITIES ALREADY ON THEIR WAY FOR THESE PROJECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVERTED TO AREAS WHERE THE NEED IS NOT YET URGENT.

2. WE ALSO NOTE THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ORPHANAGE REHABILITATION PROJECT (WFP/LAOS 2437), THE PROJECTS PROPOSED BY WFP/ROME ARE NOT LOCATED NEAR VIENTIANE WHERE MONITORING OF DISTRIBUTION COULD BE MOST EASILY CARRIED OUT. IN ADDITION, THE ORPHANAGE PROJECT IS MANAGED BY THE SAME MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICE WHICH RUNS THE NAM NGUM ISLAND PRISON CENTERS. THERE IS THUS A POSSIBILITY THAT SOME AID TO THE ORPHANAGE COULD BE MISCHANNIELED (VIENTIANE 220).

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE PLAN TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF WFP'S CHANNELING OUR CONTRIBUTION TO AN AREA IN THE VIENTIANE PLAN WHICH WILL BE THE SITE OF A WFP-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. RICE SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED FOR THIS FOOD-FOR-WORK PROJECT WILL START ARRIVING NEXT FEBRUARY, BUT THE LOCAL WFP REPRESENTATIVE THINKS THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA WILL BE ABLE TO START ABSORBING WFP COMMODITIES IN AUGUST.

4. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS PROJECT MIGHT INVOLVE RESETTLING FORMER RESIDENTS OF VIENTIANE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00634 070131Z

WE THINK THE UNDESIRABLE OVERTONES OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS WILL BE MITIGATED, HOWEVER, BY THE FACT THAT OUR RICE SHOULD ALLEVIATE ANY POSSIBLE HARDSHIPS, THAT THE LAO URBAN ECONOMY CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT SIZEABLE CITY POPULATIONS, AND THAT THE PROJECTS COULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN LAO FOOD PRODUCTION AND A CONSEQUENT MOVE TOWARD FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

5. ANOTHER PROBLEM OF WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE IS THAT THIS SECTION OF THE VIENTIANE PLAN MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ABSORB ALL OUR CONTRIBUTION. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ROUGHLY 30,000 TON SHORTFALL IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE CAN PROBABLY BE BEST MET BY PUTTING COMMODITIES INTO THE LAO STATE STORESYSTEM. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THESE STORES ARE NOT OPEN TO ALL LAO AND RICE IS SOLD AT A NOMINAL PRICE (45 KIP PER KILO AS OPPOSED TO THE FREE-MARKET PRICE OF 400 TO 600 KIP PER KILO).

6. ACTION REQUESTED: A) THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE FODAG/ROME TO TELL WFP/ROME THAT THE PROJECTS THEY

PROPOSE DO NOT APPEAR SUITABLE FROM THE TIMING AND
LOCATION STANDPOINT AND THAT THEY ARE ALREADY SLATED
TO RECEIVE COMMODITIES CURRENTLY IN THE PIPELINE,
AND B) THAT EMBASSY VIENTIANE BE TOLD WHETHER THERE ARE
ANY PROBLEMS WITH CHANNELING SOME OF OUR CONTRIBUTION
THROUGH THE LAO STATE STORES AT PRICES ROUGHLY ONE
TENTH OF THOSE ON THE FREE MARKET.
ROBERTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-1032
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780689/aaaacyf.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c5555e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 10269
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2463497
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PL 480 TITLE II AID TO LAOS
TAGS: EAID, LA, WFP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5555e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014